IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| rent Appln. Serial No.: 09/985,671 |
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| rent Filing Date: November 5, 2001 |
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

| \boxtimes | Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper. |
|------------------|---|
| \boxtimes | Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims |
| vhich begins on | page 3 of this paper. |
| | Amendments to the Drawings begin on page of this paper and |
| nclude an attach | ned replacement sheet. |
| \boxtimes | Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper |
| | |

Please note, if a box is not checked, then no corresponding amendment is being made.